

February 18, 1976

of dams for fishing purposes, other kinds of areas for pheasants and quail and, then, at the same time, charge my good friends from the eastern part of Nebraska that come out there to avail themselves of the hunting features. Now all of my mail thus far, and I have had a considerable amount of it, basically comes from eastern Nebraska all in favor of this piece of legislation and I think that is a little unique that that interest group from that section believe this as absolutely the most beautiful thing that ever came down the trail. By the same token, contrary to what Senator Mahoney says, I was in the central part of Nebraska over the weekend and I know a great number of people there who do farm and that is their occupation. Yet, in the two days I was out there, not one of them asked me to support this piece of legislation. Therefore, I believe they know best what is best for them and I think I know what is best for all of us. Therefore, once again, I will voice my opposition to this proposed constitutional amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, I feel compelled to rise for the second time to answer Senator Kime from Valentine and to Senator Koch, who has had great experience in central Nebraska there from his boyhood days and his other activities. I would say to Senator Kime that when we talk about three acres, we talk about three acres when we get into eastern Nebraska, the smaller farms. Senator Kime, if there is that meadow and it is full of water, you should be protecting that rancher. If it is full of water, he is not making any money off of it. It is a swamp. I have seen those swamps and I am amazed, I am appalled that you would stand up here and say that your rancher from up there, this vast territory, shouldn't have that also off the tax rolls if he is not going to be using it for profit. If it is a meadow, it is a swamp-land, it definitely should be taken and used for that purpose and so I think, Senator Kime, that what you are trying to do is confuse the issue and you are not always guilty of that, but on this particular occasion, you are. There was an occasion in which you are not telling the truth to those ranchers out in all those counties which you represent. And Senator Duis, you were really doing a job on this thing by mentioning the various people who would be the big city owner that would own these lands and come out and hunt on them and this was just another further situation in which that you wanted to make it look like it was made for that special occasion. To all those Senators, it would represent the best wishes of a farmer-rancher. It could be anywhere from three acres or above or five acres but I am sure that if the farmer-rancher has that particular land that is a swamp-land, Senator Kime, he is not getting any profit off of it. What is wrong with him being able to use it for the purpose of either wildlife or, at least, have it off the tax rolls? Senator Kime, in one particular area that I know, Senator Kime, I wanted your attention on this, a man had a hundred and sixty acres. At least 30 acres of these are under woodlands. Of the 30 acres of wood-